

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS,  
BUILDING H  
37-55 East Wister Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-213-H

HAER  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
716H-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HAER  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
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## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS, BUILDING H

HAER No. PA-213-H

Location:

37-55 E. Wister Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

Present Owner:

Greater Germantown Housing Development Corporation  
48 East Penn Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Present Occupant:

Vacant.

Significance:

This c.1900 storehouse was part of Daniel F. Waters' early expansion.

## **PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

### **A. Physical History**

#### **Date(s) of Erection:**

Building H was erected c.1900.

#### **Architect:**

Unknown.

#### **Original/Subsequent Owners:**

See Chain of Title.

#### **Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:**

Unknown.

#### **Original Plans/Construction:**

Building H was the store house for the Germantown Dye Works. Prior to the existing building, a one-story stone structure, built in 1862, occupied this site. According to the 1878 Hexamer Survey, dye stuffs and drugs were stored in that building. The present building replaced the stone structure, and added more floor space with a second floor.

#### **Alterations/Additions:**

There have been no major alterations or additions on Building H. In 1922, Building A extended a rear addition that joined Building A to Building H; however, the two buildings are not linked internally.

### **B. Historical Context**

Building H served an important role at the Germantown Dye Works as the store house. The previous stone structure that existed prior to the present Building H was one of the first buildings at the Germantown Dye Works; the three main components of the early works were the dye house, dry house, and store house. The evolution of the dye works is reflected in the growth of these three components. The original dye house (Building C) was joined by Buildings D, E, and F, and see Building I for the growth of the drying operation.

## **PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

### **A. General Statement**

#### **Architectural Character:**

Building H is an early twentieth century two-story vernacular industrial building.

#### **Condition of Fabric:**

Building H is in deteriorating condition. On the first floor of the south elevation mortar, erosion is jeopardizing the brick work.

### **B. Description of Exterior**

#### **Overall Dimensions:**

45' x 60' 2-story, 6 bays (along cartway).

#### **Foundations:**

Brick.

#### **Walls:**

Brick, common bond.

#### **Structural System/Framing:**

Load bearing brick masonry walls with internal wood framing.

#### **Porches/Stoops/Balconies/Bulkheads:**

On the south elevation, there is a four-step brick stoop/landing.

#### **Chimneys:**

Not applicable.

#### **Openings:**

##### **Doorways/Doors:**

On the south elevation, there is a modern wooden, six-panel door (bottom half is boarded-over). There are two doorways on the west elevation at the cartway. On the northern half of the elevation, one of the doorways consists of a simple

brick surround framing a six-panel wooden door, and the other is a modern flush metal door.

Windows/Shutters:

Building H's windows have been altered to include simple brick surrounds and rowlock sills. Where not blocked with concrete masonry units, modern two-over-two windows exist. The northern-most window on the west elevation's first floor has been infilled with brick.

Roof:

Building H has a gable roof with built-up asphalt roofing a brick incised cornice on the west elevation.

C. Description of Interior

Floor Plans:

Two floors, with the first floor partitioned for an office and the second floor open to the whole rectangular space.

Stairways:

One enclosed wooden stairway on the north side of the partition.

One ramp from the third floor of Building I to the second floor of Building H.

Flooring:

2" wooden plank flooring.

Wall/Ceiling Finishes:

Exposed brick wall. Exposed trusswork on the second floor.

Openings:

Doorways/Doors:

No historic interior doors remain.

Windows:

Modern replacement windows, with simple molded wooden surrounds. Windows on east elevation are blocked with concrete masonry units.

Decorative Features and Trim:

Not applicable.

Hardware:

Modern hardware throughout.

Mechanical Equipment:

Heating, air conditioning, ventilation:

Steam radiators in disrepair.

Lighting:

Modern electrical fixtures.

Plumbing:

Not applicable.

**D. Site**

General Setting/Orientation:

Building H is bordered on the north by Building I, on the south by the rear addition to Building A, on the east by the properties along Lena Street, and on the west by the cartway.

Historic Landscape Design:

None.

Outbuildings:

None.